

Eurostat

Working Papers

Population and social conditions 3/1999/E/n°15

**Report on the demographic situation in
12 Central European Countries*,
Cyprus and Malta**



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Report on the demographic situation in 12* Central European Countries, Cyprus and Malta

(*) Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia

June 1999

The national reports on the demographic situation in twelve selected Central European countries, Cyprus and Malta refer to 1997, except for Bulgaria (1996). National reports for Bulgaria, Hungary and Malta have been reprinted from the Council of Europe's publication "Recent demographic developments in Europe —1998"

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BULGARIA

Population

At the end of 1996, the estimated total population of Bulgaria amounted to 8 340 936 persons, a decrease of 43 779 compared to the same period of the previous year, due in particular to the negative natural increase. The female population continues to prevail in total (51.1 %) and for the ages of 35 years and over, particularly for advanced ages — 70 years and over. The gender balance began to change during the 1970s, and there are now considerably more women than men. For 1 000 men, about 1 046 women are registered, this ratio increasing during recent years. The difference in the gender ratio is greater in towns and cities, with an average of 1 055 women to every 1 000 men. The demographic ageing process continues, determined by the growth in the number and weight of the population aged 60 years and over, and the decrease in the number and weight of children under 16 years old. In the last five years alone the percentage of persons aged 65 and over has increased from 13.4 % to 15.4 %.

The ageing process is much more acute for the female population and more obvious in rural areas than in urban ones.

Marriage and divorce

Both marriages and divorces evolved under the impact of the changes in society. The number of marriages has been steadily dropping for two decades. This trend has intensified over the last six years. 35 723 marriages were concluded in 1996 as compared with 59 874 in 1990. This resulted in a fall in the crude marriage rate from 6.9‰ in 1990 to 4.3‰ in 1996. The mean age at first marriage has increased, reaching 26.3 years for men and 22.4 years for women. The relative increase for the period 1992-1996 has been 12.0 years for men and 10.8 years for women. In 1996, there were 10 014 divorces in Bulgaria, which means 280 divorces per 1 000 marriages or 1.2 divorces per 1 000 inhabitants. Some 86% of divorces were registered in urban areas, the number of divorces per 1 000 inhabitants being 3 times higher than in rural areas. There is a trend of an increasing percentage of divorces from first marriages (from 81.5 % in 1986 to 86.7 % in 1996 for men and from 82.1 % to 87.5 % for women). On the same time there is a trend of a decreasing percentage of divorces during the first five years of marriages (from 45.5 % in 1986 to 33.1 % in 1996).

Fertility

In 1996, fertility in Bulgaria showed a slight recovery compared with the previous year. The number of live births was 72 188, 221 higher than in 1995. The crude birth rate falling to 8.6 live births per 1 000 inhabitants. The birth rate of the urban population was 9.0‰ and 7.9‰ for the rural population in 1996. The higher number of births in the urban population is due to its more favourable age structure, compared to that of the rural population. The trend of this phenomenon could be synthetically expressed by the total fertility rate that fell from 2.05 children in 1980 to 1.24 in 1996. Thus being far away from ensuring the simple replacement of generations. A concentration of births was recorded for women aged 20-29 years (around 66.3 % of total live births), thus leading to the conclusion that the decrease in the number of live births resulted from the avoidance or postponing of second and higher rank birth. As during the previous years the young couple's orientation towards small-sized families has been noticed, the rate of first rank live births being 54.4 % in 1996 as compared with 44.5 % in 1976 and 46.0 % in 1986. In 1996, the average age of women at birth of any child was 24.4 years, lower in rural areas, and 22.4 years at the birth of the first child.

Mortality

The mortality in Bulgaria increased during the last decade, under the influence of the changes in the age structure and health of the population. In 1996, the number of inhabitants who died in Bulgaria was 117 056 that is 2.1 % more than in 1995. The crude death rate per 1000 inhabitants was 14.0. The death rate among the urban population (11.0‰) is about half that of the rural population (20.2‰). The increase in mortality compared to 1990 was mainly noticed among the male population (particularly for adults). The rate of elderly deaths (60 years old and over) increased to about 81.5 % of total, while the rate of under-5 deaths decreased approximately 4 times as compared 1976. The level of infant mortality has fluctuated in recent years. The 1996 statistics show that the infant mortality rate was 15.6‰, as compared 16.3‰ in 1994.

Migration

In 1996 there was very intensive internal migration, with some 69 000 persons moving principally from one urban area to another. 40 000 persons migrated from towns to villages. 40 000 persons migrated in the opposite direction, namely from villages to towns or cities and 21 000 migrated from one village to another. From 1989 to 1996 some 650 000 persons emigrated from Bulgaria. The migratory flow peaked up in 1989 and 1990. Despite the subsequent relative lull, some 45 000 persons continue to emigrate every year, whereby these numbers will no doubt stabilize in the near future. The negative balance of international migration reached 46 000 in 1996, of which approximately 89.0 % was due to migration towards other European countries. The main destination countries continued to be: Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Russian Federation.

CROATIA

Population

According to the last Population census taken on 31 March 1991 (based on the “de jure” principle), the Republic of Croatia has 4 784 265 inhabitants with average population density of 84,5 inhabitants per km².

According to the 1997 mid-year estimate (by “de facto” principle) Croatia has 4 572 000 inhabitants.

The main characteristic of the population structure according to the age is the decrease of young people (age group 0-15) and increase of the population in the working age and especially in the old age. This is the direct consequence of the decrease of the fertility on long-term. The part of young people in the whole population was 27,2 % in 1961 and 19,4 % in 1991. Between 1961 and 1991 the number of young people has decreased absolutely, from 1 132 107 to 926 179 inhabitants, which means the decrease of 205 928 inhabitants in comparison to 1961. The part of old people in the whole population increased in the structure of inhabitants from 7,5 % to 13,1 % between 1961 and 1991.

Population change

The average increase of the population in the period between two censuses (1981-1991) was 18.3 thousands (0,4 % annually). Between the period 1991 and 1996 the average annual increase of population was 27.6 thousands (that means 0,6 % annually). In the increase of the total population in the first period (1981-1991) the natural increase had part of 49,5 % and the migration of 50,5 %. In the second period (1991-1996) the natural increase was negative, with the exception in the year 1996, so the increase of the total population depends only on immigration.

Fertility

In 1997 55 501 children were born. That means 1690 more than in previous year and even 5 319 children more than in 1995. Herewith the natural decrease of the population, that follows Croatia since 1991, is interrupted. In the 1997 the birth rate was 12,1 per thousand inhabitants and mortality rate was 11,4. The total fertility rate in the last few years is about 1.6, i.e. well below replacement level. In the last few years the age specific fertility rate shows a shift away from 20-24 age group to the older age group of 25-29.

The average age of woman at the birth of her first child is almost constant and averages 25 years (24,4 years in 1991 and 25,2 in 1997) but it is slightly increasing. At the same time the average age of woman at the birth of her first child, regardless of the birth order, is 27,9 years and shows trend towards even older mothers.

The children in Croatia are mainly born within marriage (92,7 % in 1997). The proportion of extra-marital births was 7,3 % in 1997.

Nuptiality

The analysis of the number of marriages during the period 1991-1997 shows an increase from 21 583 in 1991 to 24 517 in 1997. If the last data are compared to those for earlier years (1990 and earlier) the number of marriages decreased.

Total first marriage rate was 0,7 for both, men and women.

The average age of woman at first marriage increased from 23,2 years of age in 1991 to 24,3 in 1997. In the same period, the number of divorces went down from 4 877 in 1991 to 3 899 in 1997. Similar characteristic were shown in the divorce rates which decreased from 226 divorces per 1 000 marriages (1991) to 159 in 1997. Total divorce rate increased from 0,12 in 1996 to 0,13 in 1997.

The proportion of remarriages in total number of marriages was 9,2 % for females, and 9,1 % for males.

Mortality

The number of deaths in Croatia decreased during the period 1991-1994, from 54 832 in 1991 to 49 482 in 1994. Since 1995 the number of deaths increased from 50 536 in 1995 to 51 964 in 1997. The mortality rates showed a similar trend, decreased from 11,5 in 1991 to 11,4 in 1997.

By the 1995, 1996 and 1997 statistical surveys, the data on 4 400 dead persons were collected for the period 1991-1995 (1991 – 1 403, 1992 – 992, 1993 – 899, 1994 – 638, 1995 – 468) and are entered into 1995, 1996 and 1997 Register of deaths. Although these data are not presented in the corresponding tables, they should be taken into account when analysing natural growth for the respective years.

Infant mortality also decreased from 575 in 1991 to 457 in 1997. The infant mortality rate decreased from 11,1 in 1991 to 8,2 infant deaths per 1 000 live-births in 1997.

Live expectancy at birth (for the year 1991) was 68,6 for males and 76 for females.

The most common causes of death in Croatia are diseases of circulatory system (50,3 % in 1997) and neoplasms (21,3 % in 1997). The same causes of death were also found in preceded years, only with lower rates.

International migration

44 596 persons were settled in Croatia in 1996. This is the increase of 2 570 persons in comparison with the previous year. The number of emigrants was

10 027, which is 5 386 less persons than in 1995. The migration balance amounted 34 569 persons, what is 7 956 persons more than in the previous year.

Government decisions and legislation

The Law on Maternity Leave ("Narodne Novine", official gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 24/1996) has equalised mothers that perform independent activity in the

right of getting maternity leave with employed mothers that are getting this right according to the Labour Act. On the basis of both laws, the employed mothers and independent employees have the right on the compulsory maternity leave until the 6th month of the child's birth, that is financed by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute, and on additional maternity leave until the first birthday of the child. Employed mothers that have gave birth to twins, to third an every following child, have the right on maternity leave until the third birthday of the child. The maternity leave from 6th month until the first, i.e. third birthday of the child, is financed by the state budget. Besides mentioned beneficiaries, unemployed mothers have also the right on maternity leave. The right for unemployed mothers includes the right on money benefit, which is completely covered by the state budget.

Last publications published on demographic statistics

- 1) Statistical Yearbook 1998, Central Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, 1998
- 2) 1995 Statistical Report on natural increase, Central Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, 1996
- 3) Monthly Statistical Report No. 10/1998, Central Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, 1998
- 4) Statistical information 1998, Central Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, 1998
- 5) First release on vital statistics 1997, Central Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, 1998

CYPRUS

Population

The population of Cyprus is estimated at 746,1 thousand on 1 January 1998, compared with 741 thousand in the previous year, having increased by 0,7%.

The population increase is mainly explained by the natural increase of the population, the net migration balance is positive but of small magnitude. Furthermore the total population growth conceals pronounced differences between the population growth in the Government controlled area and that of the Turkish Cypriot community in the Turkish occupied area. This difference is exclusively due to migration movements as both fertility and mortality are about the same for the two communities.

Marriage and Divorce

The number of marriages celebrated in 1997 is estimated at 7708 compared to 6299 in 1996, giving a crude marriage rate of 10,4 per thousand population in 1997 compared to 8,5 the year before.

The abrupt increase in the number of marriages in 1997 compared to the previous year is explained by the fact that 1996 was a leap year and according to the usual four-year cycle marriages are at a minimum in leap years and at a peak in the year preceding and the year succeeding the leap year.

The crude marriage rate averaged over the four-year period 1994-1997 to remove the leap year effect is calculated at 9,5 per thousand population, which is high compared to other European countries reflecting the importance of the institution of marriage in Cyprus. There is, however, a rising trend in the age at first marriage for both men and women.

Remarriages are also increasing in number. Whereas first marriages of both parties constituted almost 93% of all marriages in the period 1975-1978, this proportion decreased gradually to 76% in the period 1994-1997

There is also a rising trend in the number of divorces though their number remains small compared to other European countries. The crude divorce rate is estimated at 1,4 per thousand population in 1997. The total divorce rate, which shows the proportion of marriages that are expected to end up in divorce, was 164 per 1000 in 1997 compared to 42 per 1000 in 1980.

Though there are no official statistics on the number of consensual unions, this life style as an alternative to marriage is almost non-existent in Cyprus. On the contrary, there is a growing tendency of young persons living together during the engagement period preceding marriage.

Fertility

The number of births is estimated at 10531 in 1997 giving a crude birth rate of 14,2 per thousand population and the total fertility rate was calculated at 2,00 children per woman, somewhat lower than in the previous year. After a local peak of 20,4 births per thousand population and an average of 2,46 children per woman recorded in the four-year period of 1982-1985 both fertility indicators followed a general slow decline despite small fluctuations, reaching respectively an average of 15,2 and 2,11 in the four-year period 1994-1997.

The pattern of fertility has been changing. In the 1990's the contribution to total fertility of the age-group 25-29 increased compared to the contribution of the age-group 20-24 as shown by the age specific fertility rates which are now highest for the 25-29 age-group. Furthermore there is an increase in the share to total fertility of the 30-34 age-group. This is in line with the general increases in the mean age at birth of first child and the mean age at birth of any child which reached 25,8 and 28,4 years respectively in 1997.

It is interesting to note that the proportion of fourth and higher order births has also been increasing. This proportion averaged 11,0% in the period 1994-1997 compared to 5,3% twelve years earlier in the period 1982-1985.

The proportion of extra-marital births remains still low in Cyprus constituting only 1,6% of the total in 1997.

Mortality

In 1997 the number of deaths was 5.874 giving a crude death rate of 7,9 per thousand population. The infant mortality rate is estimated at 8,0 per thousand live births in 1997. Life expectancy at birth was 75,0 for males and 80,0 for females according to the most recent life tables of 1996/1997.

Migration

Overall, the net migration balance turned to positive in recent years. In the Government controlled area, as shown by the census results, there has been a massive flow of return migration and a growing number of foreign workers given temporary employment and therefore temporary residence.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

There were no major Government decisions and legislation pertaining to general population policy issues in 1997.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Demography situation in the Czech Republic in 1997

Total number of the Czech Republic inhabitants was as of December 31, 1997 in total 10 299 129 persons, of which 5 290 395 were women (51,4%). From 1994 the number of inhabitants is slightly falling in the Czech Republic. The reason of the population loss is in low and in long term falling number of newly born children. Slightly falling is also the number of deceased, but it cannot compensate fast decrease of new births. Loss out of the natural change has not been balanced even by migration growth.

Serious impact of the population stagnation is the population aging. In the Czech Republic is mainly reflected by the falling proportion of children. In 1993 for the first time the proportion of children component in the population decreased under 20%, in 1994 under 19% and in 1996 under 18%; never before were the children so little represented in the population of Bohemia and Moravia. Share of persons in the age of 60 and older is at present in stagnation, because of weak population age years born in the thirties. After 2000 its steep rise is however expected.

In the nationality structure of population unequivocally dominate Czechs-about 94% (including Moravians). Out of other nationalities the highest proportion is done by Slovaks, relatively big groups are ethnic Vietnamese, growing is the number of Chinese. The most problem ethnic group are Romanies. But in the course of census most of Romanies presented themselves as of Czech or Slovak nationality; therefore exact figure cannot be obtained. Proportion of foreigners - citizens of other states - legally staying in the Czech Republic is relatively low, about 2% of total population. Increasing problem seems to be growing share of foreigners living in the Czech Republic illegally - mostly citizens of Ukraine.

Marriage rate in the Czech Republic has been traditionally high, model of partners coexistence without concluding matrimony is not until now widely spread over. However after 1990 number of marriages in the Czech Republic sharply dropped because of postponing marriages into higher age of brides and bridegrooms. Divorce rate in the Czech Republic is high in the long-term view and in the course of 1996 and 1997 reached long-term maximum.

Since half of seventies Czech Republic is going over a period of fast and deep fall of birth rate. Already in 1994 number of new births in the Czech Republic was absolutely the lowest since 1785, i.e. for the whole period of statistical surveys and until 1996 new births were further falling. In 1997 absolute number of births slightly increased because of the grow in the number of women in their fertility age. Due to the fact of present more favourable age structure of women moderate growth of new births is expected also in the coming years. Despite the total fall of new births starting 1990 number of extra-marital births increased. Their share in the total births in 1997 - 17,8% of live births - is up to now the highest. In this indicator there exist inside of the Czech Republic significant differences: in Prague, in western and northern Bohemia proportion of extra-marital births is substantially higher than in the eastern Bohemia

and Moravia.

Total number of births and derived indicators - crude birth rate, total fertility rate, gross and net reproduction rate- fell in 1997 to the historical minimum and they belong to the lowest in the world.

Mean age of women at birth of first child in the course of seventies and eighties (as well as the marriage age) belonged in long-term to the lowest in Europe. But starting 1993 there is a slight shift to the higher maternity age. Within 1991 and 1992 the highest probability of child birth was in 21 years of women age, in 1993 in 22 years and in the course of 1994-1997 in the age of 23.

In the long-term development of absolute figure of deaths in the Czech Republic due to population aging- i.e. more and more old persons-there is a trend to increase. At the start of sixties the number of deaths crossed over 100 000, in 1969 it reached 120 thousand, in 1980 is crossed the level of 130 thousand reaching its maximum of 13 5,5 thousand. From the start of nineties it is even -with break in 1995- substantially falling down.

In 1997 absolute number of deaths in the Czech Republic was the lowest since 1967, crude death rate was the lowest since 1966. One of the reasons of several years moderate decrease of number of deaths and crude death rate is the shift in the structure of population: age of 70 to 80 years (the most frequent age of death) was reached by the members of extremely weak age years born within the first war period.

Prove of the improving death rate conditions in the Czech Republic since the end of eighties is the development of the life expectancy. It is a bit behind the West Europe standard, but from 1990 the life expectancy in the time of birth increased with men by 3 years, with women by 1,5 year.

Significant decrease, it means successful development, may be stated with the data on infant mortality. In 1992 for the first time in history infant mortality decreased in the Czech Republic under the level of 10,0 and 1997 it reached historically the lowest level 5,9 deceased infants per 1000 live births. Especially significant was the decreasing neonatal mortality.

But the most extended causes of death are in the Czech Republic diseases of circulatory system causing permanently more than 55% of deaths. Increasing is also the share of the second most extended cause- neoplasms. At the third position there are external causes of death (injuries, poisonings). Dominant among the circulatory system deaths are deaths due to the ischaemic heart disease and of them mainly myocard strokes.

Registered international migration is not high, especially the registered number of emigrated persons is very low from 1994. Czech Republic is from 1990 immigration country where the number of immigrated persons is each year higher than the number of emigrated. In 1993 after splitting of the Czechoslovakia there was a substantial fall in the number of immigrated from Slovakia and it remained low also in the following

years. Also number of emigrants to Slovakia is negligible.

In 1997 nor in the current course of 1998 there were no government measures taken for the stimulation of population development. Social democracy government which started in 1998 expects to take some measures, but up to now they were not made concrete.

Basic publication on the population development in the Czech Republic is each year the source document of the Czech Statistical Office "Population Development in the Czech Republic in (year)". Publication for 1997 was just published. In 1998 there was also published special book in English "Czech Demographic Handbook", providing complex summary time series of statistical data on long-term population development in the Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia and Slovakia.

THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Population

Population in the former Republic of Macedonia was 1991398 in the beginning of 1997, which means an increase of 0.8 % compared with the same period in 1996. This slight increase is expected to go further, because the projected population for 2010 is expected to be 2023613.

The natural increase shows a significant decrease, so the decreasing in 1997 is almost doubled compared to 1987. Population projections show the further decreasing in natural increase, so in 2010 it is projected to be 6413.

These unfavourable trends caused an ageing of population. The proportion of children (0-14 year of age) dropped from 24.5% in 1995 to 23.8% in 1997, while the group of persons 65 and more increased from 8.7% in 1995 to 9.1% in 1997. This situation reflected in projections shows the further declining in the proportion of children (in 2010 it is projected on 19.1%, while the proportion of age 65+ is projected to be 12.5%.

Fertility

The downward trend in the number of livebirths continued in 1997. In 1997 there were 16.7% less livebirths than in 1990.

The number of livebirths in 1997 was 29478, which is 6.1% less than the previous year. The crude birth rate is decreasing from year to year and in 1997 it was 14.8 ‰.

Total fertility rate is 1.9 children per women

(Or 1.7 computed for livebirths within the country), down from as much as 2.45 in 1980.

Total number of births outside marriage shows an increasing trend, being 7.1% and 8.9% (of the total number of livebirths) respectively for 1990 and 1997.

Mortality

The number of deaths in 1997 was 16596, which is 13.3% more than 1990, and 3.3% more than 1996.

Infant mortality rate is continuing to decline, and in 1997 it was 15.7 per 1000 livebirths.

Under five mortality rate is also decreasing. It was 17.2‰ in 1997.

In 1997, the 55.7% of deaths were caused by circulatory diseases, which is still the main cause of death. The subsequent causes are neoplasm's with 16.8% of total deaths and respiratory diseases with 4.7% of total deaths.

Marriages and divorces

There has been a downward trend in the last decade in the number of marriages registered.

In 1988 there were 16380 marriages compared with 14072 in 1997. The crude marriage rate was 7.0 per 1000 population.

The number of divorces in 1997 was 1021 that is 44.8 % more than in 1996. The crude divorce rate was 0.5 per 1000 average population, or 72,5 divorces per 1000 marriages.

The mean age at first marriage is slightly increasing, from 22.6 years in 1992 to 23.1 years in 1997.

Migration

In 1992, following the dissolution of Yugoslavia and proclaiming the sovereignty of the former Republic of Macedonia in 1991, internal and external migration began to be monitored in our country through surveys on population migration : the Internal migration survey, the External migration survey and the Survey on Immigrated and Emigrated foreigners.

The Internal migration survey covers citizens of the former Republic of Macedonia changing their places of residence within the territory of the former Republic of Macedonia.

The External migration survey covers citizens of the former Republic of Macedonia emigrating from the territory of the republic or immigrating to the republic from abroad.

The Survey on immigrated and emigrated foreigners covers foreign citizens changing their places of residence from abroad to the former Republic of Macedonia or vice versa, or within the territory of the former Republic of Macedonia itself.

The source of data for migrations was taken from statistical applications of arrivals and departures reported to the local Offices of the Ministry of Interior.

External (international) migrations consist of two categories:

- 1: external (international) migration of citizens
- 2: Arrivals-departures of foreigners (international migration of alien citizens).

Migration trends

In 1997, the migration balance was 1013 that is 18.4 % less than the previous year.

The total number of arrivals in 1997 was 1295 mostly from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (642 or 49.6%), 162 or 12.5% from Croatia, 150 or 11.6% from Albania, and 118 or 9.1% from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The total number of departures in 1997 numbered 282 up from 247 in 1996 and the mostly to the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (225 or 79.8%).

Last publications published on demographic statistics

Population change in the Republic of Macedonia -1997

Population projections in the Republic of Macedonia - 1996 -2010

Emigrated and immigrated persons in the Republic of Macedonia - 1997

ESTONIA

Population size and structure

On 1 January 1998, Estonia had a population of 1 454 000, with 677 000 men and 777 000 women. The relative weight of the 65 year and older people was 14,1%, while that of the children (0—14 years) was 19,2%. The proportion of ethnic Estonians in total population amounted to 65%.

Population change

The population decrease that started at the beginning of the 1990s continued in 1997. The population decreased approximately by 8 000 in 1997. In previous four years the annual population growth was around -1%. In 1997 about 30% of the decrease in population was caused by migration; the rest was due to natural decrease: natural decrease was 5 940 and negative net migration 2 496. The rate of natural increase is negative since 1991. In 1997 and 1996 its value was approximately -4‰. The net migration is negative since 1990. The rate of net migration at 1997 was about -2‰. The changes in age structure show an ageing trend. The proportion of children aged 0-14 has fallen by 0,54 %, and proportion of people 65 years and older has grown by 0,35 % in 1997.

Fertility

In the nineties the number of live births and the crude birth has continually decreased. While 22 308 children were born in 1990, there were only 12 626 births in 1997. That was 665 less than in 1996. The value of crude birth rate for 1997 was 8,66. While at 1990 it was 16,04. Total fertility rate has decreasing trend and starting from 1990 it is below the reproduction level and values at 1,24 in 1997.

The proportion of non-martial births is increasing. Since 1989 the increase is more rapid and number of non-martial births accounted for 52% of the total number of births in 1997.

The mean age of women at childbirth has decreasing trend until 1992. In 1992 the average age of women at childbirth was 25,3 years. In 1997 it reached 26,2 years.

Mortality

The number of deaths has decreased in comparison to 1996 from 9 634 to 9 407 for male population and from 9 385 to 9 159 for female population, both 2,4%. Crude death rate per 1 000 has decreased from 14,08 to 13,86 for males and from 11,96 to 11,75 for females. The decline in mortality has been continuing since 1994, when it had the maximum level of the last 30 years, partially because of the shipwreck of "Estonia". Infant mortality rate is 10,0 per 1 000 live birth, it has decreased from 10,4 in the previous year and now it is exceptionally low for Estonia. Life expectancy at birth has increased last year from 64,5 to 64,7 for males and from 75,5 to 76,0 for females. It compensates the drop in 1994. The three main causes of death are diseases of the circulatory system (46% of deaths for males and 62% for females), malignant

neoplasms (19 and 17% respectively) and external causes of death (19 and 6%). Mortality due to external causes and diseases of the circulatory system increased in 1987-1994 and up to now has been decreasing.

Nuptiality

The number of marriages fluctuated regularly during the seventies and early eighties between 11 800 and 13 500. There has been a steady downward trend since 1987 in the number of marriages registered. In 1987, the number of marriages was 13 434, while the corresponding number in 1996 was only 5 517. In 1997, 72 marriages were celebrated more than in the previous year. The crude marriage rate was 3,8‰, which is lower than the 1990 rate of 7,5‰. Proportion of remarriages has been about 33% from the total number of marriages during the last five years. Total first marriage rate was 3,6 in 1997 and it is almost the same as year before.

The average age of women at first marriage started to rise since 1993 (the lowest level was in 1991–1992 — at 22.4 years). By 1997 the average age of women at first marriage had risen to 24,1. Starting from 1993 the average age of women at first marriage is higher than the average age at first birth.

The crude divorce rate has been almost on the same level throughout the last ten years, varying between 3,6 and 3,9. The years 1992 and 1995, then the crude divorce rate was 4,3 and 5,0 respectively, were exceptional. These have been associated with introduction of Estonian passports in 1992 and the adaptation of the new Family Act on 1 January 1995 that simplified the procedures of divorces. In 1997 the number of divorces was 5 281.

Migration

The net migration balance was negative in 1997, as in the last seven years. In 1997 the number of immigrants was 1 585. The number increased lightly compared with 1996 when there were 1 552 immigrants. Emigration has decreased faster: in 1997 - 4 081 persons emigrated from Estonia, while the corresponding figure in 1996 was 7 235. The largest reduction in population due to negative net migration took place in 1992, when emigration exceeded immigration by 33 827 persons. Since then, both immigration and emigration have declined.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

Estonia has adopted the Law on Refugees and ratified the Geneva Convention and New York Protocol in 1997. A number of Government's regulations for the implementation of the Law have been adapted after this and Government has started to create conditions for accommodation and welfare for refugees.

Last publications published on demographic statistic

In 1998 ESA published:

- ◆ Population I: General Demographical Data 1997;

- ◆ Population II: Vital Events of the Population 1997;
- ◆ Population III: Migration 1997;
- ◆ Social Trends, 1998;
- ◆ Reference Book of Population Statistics, 1/1998, 2/1998.

HUNGARY

Population

The demographic situation of Hungary has been characterised for several decades by unfavourable tendencies which continued to strengthen in recent years. As a consequence of the significant decreasing fertility and the high mortality, the population declined by approximately 385 000 since 1981, and by approximately 239 000 since 1990. On 1 January 1998, the total population was 10 135 000 which is 39 000 less than one year earlier. Smaller and smaller generations are born, mostly that is why the proportion of elderly people is growing and since 1993 it has been higher than the proportion of children. Natural decrease is a concomitant of an ageing population : the relative weight of the 60 year and older people was 19,5 %, while that of the children was 17,5 % at the beginning of 1998. The low fertility, high mortality and unfavourable age-structure determine the future development of the population for a long period. According to the last projection the number of population will continue to fall, consequently the population will become older. For 2010, the population can be estimated at 9 700 000 which would be 435 000 less than on 1 January 1998 and 1 000 000 (10%) less than in the early 1980s when the population was largest in this century.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages has been falling since the mid-1970s and this phenomenon has become more pronounced in the last few years. In 1997, 46 900 couples married, 2 000 fewer than one year earlier. The number of marriages is nearly 19 500 less than in 1990 and it is equal to 45% of the 1975 figure. In the 20th century, only during the First World War were there fewer weddings in Hungary. Consequently, the rate of marriages is also low: in 1997, there were 4.6‰ of population. Also related to the falling number of marriages is the increasing tendency towards informal cohabiting. This also shows up in the marked rise in the number and proportion of birth outside marriage. The number of divorces has been falling — with some fluctuations — from the second half of the 1980s. In the first half of the 1990s, its frequency varied between 2.1 and 2.4‰. In 1997 25 000 marriages ended with divorce, 10% more than one year earlier. Compared to the very high number of divorces in 1987, it fell by 16%. In 1997, the divorce rate was 2.5‰.

Fertility

In the recent years the fall in the number of births accelerated. The birth number of 1997 equal to 100 400 was lower by 4 900 (5 %) than one year earlier and this meant 9.9 live births per thousand of population. Fertility decreased in all age groups of females, but to a various extent. The regress was greatest in the case of females under 30 years, particularly in the age group of females that is most significant in respect of general fertility, in case of the 20-24 year-old women the frequency of births declined by 11% during one year. In 1997 the fertility level of females under 20 years was lower by 30%, that of the 20-24 year-old by 43% and that of the 25-29 year-old by 17% than in 1990. Despite this decrease the fertility level of women over 30 years is still somewhat higher than seven years earlier. The number of births in 1997 represents a historical minimum in all respects. At such a fertility level a female would give birth to 1.38 children on the average during her fertile age which is 34% less than the level necessary to ensure the reproduction of the population. The data for birth order show that the proportion of mainly the first and second children was that decreased within the total number of births. As a result of this the average of birth order rose from 1.96 to 2.00 in one year. The slow decrease in the ratio of premature children continued, in 1997 the proportion of infants

born with a weight less than 2 500 grams was 8.4 % which was nearly 10% lower than in 1990. Despite the significant decrease in the total number of births, the number of those outside marriage continued to grow. While in 1997 the total number of births was 25 300 lower than in 1990, in particular the number of those outside marriage was 8 600 higher. This means a 52% growth in the examined period. In 1997, 25% of total births derived from non-married females, while in 1990 their proportion was 13%. 82% of the births outside marriage derived from single and 16% from divorced females. After the Foetal Life Protection Act LXXIX of 1992, the number of induced abortions fell significantly, nearly by 14% within one year. In 1994, the pace of the decline became much slower and in 1995, the trend changed over to an increase. The 1996 data show that the number of legal abortions did not continue to grow. In 1997, the number of abortions equal to 74 600 is by 3% lower than it was in the previous year. Parallel with the significant fall in the number of births, the number of abortions did not continue to grow which indicates a more responsible contraception. Due to the slight decrease in abortions and the significant fall in births the number of induced abortions per 100 live births increased to 74 in 1997, from 73 the value of 1996.

Mortality

The death rates were increasing for about three decades, but since 1994 a slight improvement can be observed in mortality. We have to note however that mortality of middle aged men is still very high, and is similar to the level 50 — 60 years before. In Europe only the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union have a worse mortality rate than Hungary has. In Hungary in 1997 the average life expectancy at birth was 70.7 years which is a very low value on an international scale too. In particular, males at birth can expect living for 66.4 years and females for 75.1 years. Life expectancy at birth both for males and females was longer than it was in 1990, yet it is much shorter than the characteristic level of the industrial countries. From the 1960s on, the mortality of infants and children improved significantly and at the same time life expectancy of the adult population shortened. The increase of the mortality of 35-64 year old people played a significant role in this. In 1997, 139 400 people died, nearly 3% less than in 1996. There were 13.7 deaths per thousand of population. There are rather big differences in mortality by regions which reflect mainly the diverse social situation : the death rate of adult males is much higher in rural than in urban areas. In case of females the geographic differences in mortality are not so marked. The infant mortality rate in 1997 was 9.9 per thousand live births, higher by 1.0 than in 1996. The relatively high infant mortality has largely reduced to the problem of premature birth.

Migration

According to preliminary data, about 184 000 foreigners arrived at the country between 1988 and 1997. The largest number, 37 000 arrived in 1990. According to provisional data, at the beginning of 1997, 143 000 foreign citizens have been living in Hungary for more than one year (or with long term residence permits). The opening of the borders has given rise to a greater temporary migration too. Businessmen, students and temporary workers arriving in growing numbers leave the country after a shorter or longer stay. Also among those requesting a permission to reside, there are persons who return home or travel to a third country. Data are not available on the number of Hungarian citizens leaving the country or returning.

Demographic projections

In Hungary, population projections are made regularly. These provide information on the population by age and sex up to the years 2010 — 2020. In addition, the population is also

projected by marital status, household positions and households by type, as well as by categories of economic activity and inactivity. Usually in each five years a regional population projection and projection by level of education are added to the projection set. For long-term planning population scenarios up to 2050 are offered. In case of the basic population projection by sex and age we use the cohort-component model. The components of population change — births and deaths — are projected separately for cohorts. Due to the bad quality or lack of data international migration is usually excluded, as well as the net migration figures, estimated to be low. However, scenarios with international migration are available for special use. The population by marital status is projected using a dynamic (multi-state) model. Other projections, except the regional estimations applying the migration pool model, use static projection methods based on assumptions on age, sex and other specific rates. The main results on the baseline projection variants show a further decrease in the population size, certain ageing on longer run and the size of different age groups in the population remarkably changing in time, as a consequence of fluctuations in the yearly number of birth in the past. The future population trends in Hungary are basically similar to those in the EU member states, but it should be noted that a future convergence would be much more a consequence of an increase in life expectancy than that of a change in fertility.

LATVIA

Population

The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia estimates that at the beginning of 1998 the number of resident population of the Republic of Latvia was 2458000 persons.

During the previous years, since 1991, population growth in Latvia has shown a negative trend. During this period population numbers decreased by 209500, or 7.8 %, (21500 in 1997). The natural increase of population has been negative since 1991 and the economic recession with ensuing stagnation caused a radical fall in the marriage and fertility rates coupled with an increase in mortality that continued up to 1994. The last three years showed a slight decrease in the crude death rate (13.8 on average per 1000 population compared with 16.4 in 1994). This figure may be the first indication of positive changes in the economic development of Latvia.

The age composition of the population at the beginning of 1998 is as follows: younger generation in the age brackets 0-14 years constitute 17.8 % and people at their post-productive age (60 or over for males and 56 or over for females) - 22.8 %. The proportion of working-age population is currently 59.4 % compared with 57.7 % at the beginning of 1997. In 1996, the retirement age for women was raised by one year.

Over the recent years the male and female proportions have become even. The male proportion was assessed at 46.3 % in the end of 1997. In each age group under 33 years, the proportion of men is higher whereas in the following age groups women predominate. A large disproportion between the male and female population prevails at the age of 70 and over.

Statistical data show that a small positive change in the ethnic composition of the population has occurred during the recent years. Since the last Population Census in 1989, the percentage of ethnic Latvians has risen from 52.0 % to 55.5 % at the beginning of 1998. The percentage of ethnic Latvians is lower in Riga, the capital city (38.7 %).

Population density is now 38 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Marriage and divorces

In 1997, only 9680 marriages were contracted in Latvia, an increase of 46 or 0.5 %, compared with 1996. In the period between 1987 and 1997, the marriage rate decreased from 9.7 in 1987 to 3.9 in 1997, that is, more than 2.4 times.

The average age at the first marriage is currently 23.6 years for women and 25.7 years for men. Both these figures are slightly higher than in 1996. About 36 % of all the marriages in 1997 were contracted between people of different ethnic nationalities. A total of 6103 divorces were granted in 1997, up by 52 or 0.8 % compared with 1996. The level of divorces in 1997 was 630 per 1000 marriages and the crude divorce rate was 2.5.

Similarly as in other European countries, cohabitation without formal marriage registration at the Registry Office or in church has become widespread in Latvia over the recent years.

Fertility

The number of live births was 18830 in 1997 (42135 in 1987) giving a total fertility rate of 1.11. The number of live births has fallen in 1997 compared with 1987, the peak year, by 55 % and this can be explained by an unfavourable situation in the national economy. The number of first and second live births now amounts to 82.2 % of live births, the third live birth - to 10.4 %, and the fourth and higher - to 7.4 %.

Mortality

There were 33533 deaths in 1997 (32150 in 1987, that is, 10 years earlier). The crude death rate, as we already mentioned before, has decreased from 16.4 ‰ in 1994 to 13.6 ‰ in 1997. In 1997, according to the calculations of the CSB, life expectancy at birth was 64.2 years for men and 75.9 years for women. The infant mortality rate was 15.2 per thousand of births in 1997, a slight but continuous decrease compared to 15.8 in the preceding year.

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was introduced in Latvia in 1996. In 1997, 55.5 % of all deaths in Latvia were caused by the diseases of the circulatory system. This is very disturbing since the trends here represent a radical departure from those observed in the developed countries. Mortality due to neoplasms is the next cause of death accounting for 16.4 % of all deaths in 1997. The death rate due to external causes (11.6 %) that follows the two above is also higher in Latvia than in the majority of other European countries.

Migration

Since 1989, the difference between the number of arrivals and departures of long-term migrants has been negative.

The level of emigration and repatriation peaked in 1992 when net emigration amounted to 47000 people. In 1993, the net migration rate declined by almost a half, and net emigration reached nearly 28000; in the next years the respective figures were 18800 in 1994, 10500 in 1995, 7300 in 1996 and 6800 in 1997. Net emigration to western countries increased from near zero at the beginning of 1990 to 1600 in 1997. The majority of western direction emigrants go to Germany, the USA and Israel. The majority of eastern direction emigrants chose the Russian Federation (5604 persons in 1997), Belarus (916) and the Ukraine (876). The long-term migration flows between Latvia and its neighbouring countries Estonia and Lithuania are quite low (43 immigrants from Estonia and 69 from Lithuania in 1997 and, correspondingly, 38 and 180 emigrants).

Emigration is age-selective, comprising the younger and early middle-age groups. The level of education within these groups is higher than the average. At the same time,

the proportion of family members among the long-term emigrants is lower and that of single persons higher compared with the data on the total population.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

The Parliament of Latvia has passed a new Law on State Statistics and it came into force on 9 December 1997. This Law lies down that statistics shall be produced according to the requirements and recommendations of international organisations.

The Government of Latvia adopted a decision about the organisation of the next Population and Housing Census on 1 January 2000. The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia was appointed as the main governmental agency responsible for carrying out this important and tremendous statistical task.

Demographic Projections

The latest Demographic Projection was done by the Department of Demography of the University of Latvia in cooperation with the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia. This project covers a period from 1993 to 2003.

In compliance with the requests of some ministries and other governmental agencies, work has been started on developing a new set of demographic projections for a longer period of time - up to the year 2020. These new projections will be based on the latest demographic data both for the country as a whole and the biggest administrative territories. This projection will be available for the users at the end of 1998.

Last publications on demographic statistics

1. **DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK OF LATVIA.** Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, 1998, Riga. In Latvian and English, 196 pages.
2. **STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF LATVIA.** Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, 1998, Riga. In Latvian and English, 350 pages.

LITHUANIA

Population

At the beginning of the 1998 the population of Lithuania was 3703961. During the previous year population fell by 3252. Natural negative change of population was the only reason of such decrease. The biggest increase of the population in post-war period was in the seventh decade, when the average growth rate was 37 thousand per year (1.2-1.3%). At the beginning of the eight decade the population growth rate became stable, and amounted to 0.8-0.9 % per year. From 1990 the rate of population growth started changing noticeably: it made up 0.8% in 1990 and in 1992 for the first time during the peaceful period decrease in Lithuanian population was observed.

The age structure of population is rather old. At the beginning of 1998 12.7% of population were 65 years or older, the proportion of children (0-14 years) was 20.8%. From the 1970 year the proportion of children decreased by 6.4 percentage points while share of population 65 years and over increased by 2.7 percentage points.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages increased steadily for a long term and a peak of 36310 marriages per year were registered in 1990. During recent years their number went downwards, especially in 1993 (by 21%). In 1997, 18796 couples married, i.e. 1637 less than in 1996. Calculated per 1000 average inhabitants the rate is 5.1, which is the lowest marriage rate ever observed.

Early marriage is widespread as demonstrated by the average age at first marriage which has been 22.8 years for women and 24.6 years for men.

Overall crude divorce rate with slight fluctuating was stable and remained on the level of 3.1-3.3 per 1000 average inhabitants during the eighties. However, since 1990 the number of divorces has jumped and over 15 thousand couples registered divorces officially in 1991, or 4.1 divorce per 1000 inhabitants. This phenomenon could be affected by the change in ownership forms especially by privatisation of flats. Since 1994, the number of divorces and its rate have been stable, i.e. 11000 couples get divorced per year, the crude divorce rate varied between 2.8 and 3.0 divorces per 1000 average population. The total divorce rate was 38% in 1997.

Fertility

The highest and rather constant crude birth rates were observed in 1950 - 1960, i.e. 23 births per 1000 population. Later the crude birth rates were decreasing steadily for two decades and at the end of the 1979 fell to 15.3 per 1000 average inhabitants. From 1983 an acceleration of crude birth rate was observed because the child care leave for employed or studying mothers might last until the child reached 1.5 years of age. This trend of increasing crude birth rate lasted for a few years only and in 1989 the crude birth rate got to the previous level. Since 1990, new and unexpected in their scale, trends of crude birth rate decline have started.

There were 56868 in 1990 compared to 37812 in 1997. The total period fertility rate reduced from 2.0 to 1.4, respectively. The crude birth rate was lowest in 1997 - 10.2 per 1000 average population. The mean age of women at childbearing in 1997 was 26.0. The extra-marital births per 100 births is increasing, i.e. from 7.0% in 1990 to 16.5% in 1997.

Mortality

The lowest crude mortality rate during post-war period was in the 1960s. Then it began increasing and in 1985 there were 11.1 deaths per 1000 average population. In the mid - 1980s, attempts to reduce alcohol consumption led to a temporary fall in the crude mortality rate, but it soon started to rise again. Between 1989 and 1994, mortality rose by 21.4%, with the sharpest surge (10.8%) in 1993. Since 1994 the number of deaths has shown a declining tendency. The number of deaths in 1997 was 41143, the crude mortality rate 11.1 (12.5 in 1994).

In 1997 the life expectancy of males was 65.9 and that of females 76.8 years. During the last two years it was observed a slight increase in life expectancy: by 2.4 years for males and by 1.7 years for females. The difference in life expectancy between men and women is narrowing and is now 10.9 years.

The predominate cause of death was cardiovascular diseases, from which in 1997 year 45.1% of men and 66.6% of women died and malignant diseases, from which 19.5% of men and 16.4% of women died. The greatest concern of society is mortality due to accidents, poisoning and trauma by which 19.8% men and 6.0% of women died in 1997.

Migration

During the 1960s-1990s the development of international migration in Lithuania, though very intensive, was rather stable. It was characterised by weak contacts with Western countries and constant increase in population due to the migration from the republics of the former USSR. Migration balance with the former USSR republics each year constituted 6-7 thousand persons per year. Since 1990, the situation has changed and net migration has become negative for the first time during postwar years. The level of emigration from Lithuania reached a peak in 1992, when emigration amounted to 28855 people. Most of the outmovers left for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, i.e. for the Republics which accounted for the major part of the net immigration in the past. Recently the number of emigrating people for CIS countries has become stable. For the countries of CIS in 1997 left 1645 people, for the other countries 812.

MALTA

Population

At the end of 1997, the Maltese population was estimated at 376 513 consisting of 186 664 males and 189 849 females. This estimate was based on a Census of Population and Housing taken in November 1995. The density of population works out at just over 1 193 persons per km² which is the highest in Europe.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages contracted during 1997 was 2 888 which is 4.4 % more than the number celebrated during the previous year. The crude rate works out at 6.7. Divorce is not legal in Malta.

Fertility

The number of live births during 1997 was 4 835 compared with 4 944 recorded during the previous year. The crude birth rate (12.8) was less than that recorded last year. The total fertility rate works out at 1.95. The gross reproduction rate is estimated at approximately 0.98.

Mortality

The number of deaths in 1997 was slightly higher than that of the previous years and stood at 2 888 resulting in a crude mortality rate of 7.6. There were 31 deaths under the age of one year representing an infant mortality rate of 6.4 per 1 000 live births. According to the latest available data (1996), life expectancy at birth has been marginally higher than that for the previous year. Male life expectancy stands at 74.9 years while for females it is now 79.8. A marked rise in life expectancy can be discerned since the last population Census (1985) when the male and female indexes stood at 70.8 and 76.0 years respectively. Heart diseases continued to predominate as the main cause of deaths. A high incidence of deaths was also associated with blood and nutrition causes which are influenced to a considerable extent by the widespread incidence of diabetes in Malta. According to recent research the incidence of diabetes is much higher than that of other Mediterranean countries.

Migration

During the past fifty years, the level of migration exerted a considerable influence on population growth and its structure. The island was traditionally an emigration country, but since 1975, returnees number more than emigrants. During 1997, 73 Maltese left the island while 453 returned to Malta resulting in a net migration inflow of 380 persons. In accordance with the traditional geographic pattern, 51% went to Australia and the highest number of returnees came from that country. During 1997 there were 228 cases of naturalisations and registrations.

Demographic projections

Malta's population is still young by European standards. The 0-14 age group represents 21.2 % of the total population, while the 65 + age group accounts for 11.8 %. The population is also ageing at a fast rate. By the year 2010, the young age group is projected to go up to

18.3 %, while the 65 + age group will climb to 16%. At present there are four potential workers for each pensioner, this ratio will decline to 3.5 and will drop to 2.3 by 2025.

Census of Population and Housing

During 1995 the Central Office of Statistics conducted a Population and Housing Census. The results are being analysed and two volumes, one on population and the other dealing with fertility, have been published.

POLAND

Population size and structure

At the end of 1997 the population of Poland was 38 660 000 inhabitants, of which about 62% lived in urban areas. The most recent Polish population projections indicate that this share should increase slightly in the future. Current estimates of population, as well as the population projections, are based on permanent residents of Poland, whether they are in the country or abroad. All figures therefore include persons living abroad for a temporary stay.

It is foreseen the growth of the number of population on average by 0.8 million every ten years in future. It is forecasted that in the year 2010 the number of Poland's population will amount to ca. 40.1 million people.

Considerable changes took place in the population age structure during last period. The rapid drop of births observed in the 1990s resulted a declining of the size of age group of children (0-14) and youth under 18 and its percentage share in the total number of population. The share of children and teenagers fallen from 29.7% in 1990 to 26.3% in 1997. At the same time the high increase (absolute number and as share) in the number of persons refer to the working age (57.5% up to 59.5%), which concerned first of all the older working people in this group, i.e. men aged 45 -64 and women 45-59. The oldest of the age groups - at post-working age - grows systematically since the 80-ties. In 1997 the share of this subpopulation was 14.2% (this proportion will increase up to ca. 15.2% in 2010) at post-working age and 11.7% - at age 65 and more. The stronger ageing process will start in Poland in the future.

Population change

In 1997 the population of Poland increased by about 20 650, i.e. the lowest real increase during the whole post-war period. The rate of annual population change decreased to slightly below 0.05% and there are no indications that it may significantly change further in the forthcoming years. By comparison, in the 1980s this rate was 0.66% (an annual increase of the order of 240 000 persons) and in the early 1990s - about 0.26%. The possibility of change from the state of natural increase to one of natural reduction of the population is still rather distant for Poland.

The population of Poland is still at the stage of natural development resulting from a positive natural increase, but the numbers of births and deaths are alarmingly close to each other. That difference has now decreased to 32 500. The natural increase rate amounted to only 0.9% in 1997. At the beginning of the 1980s (it was a baby boom) there were over 300 000 more births than deaths.

International permanent migration does not have a significant effect on real growth in Poland. Net migration is still decreasing. In 1997 it was minus 11800 of persons.

Nuptiality

In 1997, 204 850 marriages were contracted, somewhat slightly more than in the previous year. The number of contracted marriages per 1000 population has remained nearly constant for some last years. This rate is now 5.3 per 1000 population, while at the beginning of 1980s it was ca. 9.0‰.

From the marriages contracted in 1997, 87% were first ones, the remainder 13% it concerns remarriages. The total first marriage rate reached 0.61 for females below the age of 50 in 1997. The majority of woman contracting a first marriage are in the 18-24 age group and men in the 20-29 group. The median age of the Polish woman at their first marriage did not change significantly: last year, it was 22.5 years. An increase in the number of first marriages is expected in the forthcoming years.

Since 1993 the number of divorces has systematically increased to about 42 600 in 1997. It is still less than in 1984, which was the record year in this respect in the whole post-war period in Poland (nearly 53 000 divorces). The divorce rate per 1000 population has been running at around 1.1 for many years, including last one when there were about 4 divorces per 1000 existing marriages.

The divorce's statistics refers exclusively to the dissolution of marriages legally contracted. The total number of dissolved marriages is considerably higher in Poland. The high mortality of married people (especially men) dissolves about 180 000 marriages each year, i.e. 19-20 per 1000 existing marriages. Other phenomenon which influence on the family formation are consensual unions, which can enumerated through census or national sample surveys data.

Fertility

Since the beginning of 1990 in Poland is observed the depth demographic depression, larger then the one experienced during the second half of the 1960s. Women born in the period of 1968-77 (higher fertility) are reaching the age of effective procreation (20-29 years). The younger generations of women aged 20-24 do not decide on procreation now. In 1997 only 412 700 children were live born in Poland - the lowest figure in the whole post-war period. Nearly 89% of live births were legitimate. The crude live birth rate reached 10.7‰. Birth order was concentrated primarily on the first and second births, which represent approximately 70% of all live births. Last years more higher order births were recorded.

The average age of women at birth of first child was about 23.6 years in 1997 and showed only slight change in comparison to the previous year, similar to the mean age of women at birth of any child (26.9). A childbearing for most women is now more spread in time than at the beginning of 1980s.

Since 1989 the population of Poland has reached the stage of development defined in demographic terms as a limited replacement level. In practice, this means that the current demographic development does not guarantee the replacement of generations; the total fertility rate is 1.51 and net reproduction rate of about 0.72. The current fertility forecast assumes that it could be possible to return to the replacement level during the next several years.

Mortality

There were 380 200 deaths in Poland in 1997, slightly less than in 1996. The crude death rate reached 9.8‰. As in recent years, in the near future the number of deaths and the crude death rate are likely to decline. Now is still observed an unfavourable phenomenon - the excess mortality among men compared to women, especially in the younger age groups of men at working age.

The favourable phenomenon in the field of mortality is the continually decreasing number of infant deaths. Almost 4 200 children aged under one year died in 1997 and the infant mortality rate decreased to 10.2 per 1000 live births. Poland still has one of the worst infant mortality rates in Europe.

In Poland we can observe the increase in life expectancy for six years. In 1997 male life expectancy at birth averaged 68.5 years, and female life expectancy was 77.0, i.e. nearly two years longer for females and more than two years longer for males, compared to 1991. This is still about 5-8 years less than in some Scandinavian countries, Switzerland or France, which have the longest life expectancy in Europe.

It is estimated in 1997 a full of 50% of deaths was caused by circulatory and heart diseases, about 20% by malignant or other neoplasms and about 8% - by accidents, injuries or poisonings. This means that almost 78% of deaths in Poland were due to civilisation diseases. Poland still has a high level of mortality, similar to that of Hungary, Romania and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The main factors affecting the high level of mortality in Poland are: alcoholism, smoking, the bad nutrition, or simply lack of preventive treatment. It is considered possible that a high pollution of the environment may also be the reason for a large number of diseases and deaths, but there is no empirical data to verify this.

International migration

In 1997 20 200 Poles emigrated abroad on permanent residence (it was about 21 300 in the previous year). On the other hand, immigration stood at 8 400, rapidly increasing in recent three years. In recent years, the destination countries for Polish emigrants, either for permanent or temporary stay, were: Germany, United States and Canada. Among immigrants taking up permanent residence in Poland, the largest number comes from: Germany, United States and former the Soviet Union countries.

The data is based on migratory movements declared as a permanent change of residence by Poles or foreigners and recorded in the Polish statistics. However, it exists a different group of migrants, i.e. persons going abroad as tourists or to visit their families, who decide to stay abroad even for several years, thus effectively becoming emigrants. The Polish statistics does not have precise information on the extent of this type of emigration, as well as foreigners and nationals - immigrants, who residence in Poland for a long time.

Nearly 3500 applications pending at the beginning of the 1997 or submitted during this year, for asylum were filed and delivered to the appropriate authorities. The most of asylum seekers applications concerned the following countries: Somalia, Sri Lanka and the other Asiatic countries. Only several interested in asylum seekers persons were admitted.

Government decision and legislation

In recent years the focus of activities of governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations has concentrated on social problems concerning the specific sub-groups of population. The activities have focused in social fields concerning population-related policies in particular: social protection, social insurance, health care programme, family allowances, occupational training in connection with unemployment and promotion of youth employment, care programmes for the disabled and so on. In 1997 Poland implemented national act on foreigners, which broadly treats for the refugees and asylum seekers.

Last publications published on demographic statistics

The Central Statistical Office currently provides all government institution with statistical information. Publications containing demographic data are regularly issued each year. The last ones concerning the changes in demographic phenomena and processes too, which take place in transition period:

- 1) Demographic Yearbook of Poland 1998, (1998) - the polish-english version since 1993
- 2) Life tables of Poland in 1997), (1998) - the polish-english version
- 3) Basic Information on Demographic Development of Poland in 1989-1997, (1998) - english version will be available in April 1999
- 4) Migracje zagraniczne ludności w Polsce w latach 1988-1997, (1998) - polish version
- 5) Porównanie stanu zdrowia ludności Polski i wybranych krajów europejskich w 1996r., (1998) - polish version.

ROMANIA

Population

On 1998, January 1st, Romania's population accounted for 22.5 million inhabitants, of which 11.0 million (49.0%) men and 11.5 million (51.0%) women.

During last years, population showed a downward trend, as result of the evolution of fertility, mortality and external migration. Starting 1990, the population of our country diminish every year, with an average yearly negative rate of 0.37%, this decrease being due both to the negative natural increase and to the negative balance of external migration. The contributions of those two factors of population evolution were different over time, the main share being held, during the last four years, by the negative natural increase.

Since 1994, the negative natural increase exceeds in intensity the migratory one, its contribution becoming the prevailing factor of decrease in Romania's population. During the last three years, due to the natural decrease, Romania's population lost 151 thousand persons.

The natural decrease showed different evolution by gender: for men, it started even since 1992, while for women it occurred two years later, however with lower values.

The generations born after 1989, lower in terms of number, have further narrowed the pyramid base. Their demographic and economic effects will occur in time, as distortions in the size of the various sub-populations (school aged, at fertile age and at work age).

The structure by age of Romania's population reflects a slow but continuous process of demographic ageing, mainly determined by the decrease in the natality, which entailed the absolute and the relative diminution of young population aged 0-14 years (from 23.7% in 1990 to 19.4% in 1997) and the increase in the weight of elderly population aged 65 years and over (from 10.4% in 1990 to 12.8% in 1997).

The increase in the weight of elderly population (over 65 years of age) is only one face of population demographic ageing. Under the circumstances specific to our country, where natality is very low - entailing the quicker diminution of young population - and mortality is very high, particularly for adults, demographic ageing prevails through the pyramid base.

During the last five years, the mean age of the country's population rose from 35.7 years in 1992 to 36.4 years in 1997, an age characterising the countries with an "adult" population. For female population, the mean age rose from 36.8 years in 1992 to 37.6 years at mid-1997, while for male population, during the same period, it rose from 34.5 to 35.2 years.

The structure by age groups for rural population show that the demographic ageing process is more intense in this area, the weight of elderly people exceeding the one recorded in urban area by almost two times.

Due to migration (mainly) and to the male high mortality, we have to notice a sharp increase in rural female population ageing.

Specific to both areas is the increase in the demographic dependence ratio, during recent years, on behalf of elderly population.

Marriage

During 1990 - 1997, nuptiality recorded a downward trend, crude marriage rate reaching, in 1997, the lowest value of last years, that is 6.5 ‰. In 1997, there were by about 25% marriages less than in 1990, the highest decrease being recorded beginning with 1993.

Nevertheless, this phenomenon still preserves a relatively high level as compared to other European countries.

The uncertainty of jobs, the unemployment increase, the financial difficulties faced when trying to achieve a dwelling, are more and more diminishing the youth motivation for concluding a marriage, the postponing phenomenon being more and more frequent.

During 1990 - 1997, the number of young unmarried persons getting married decreased by almost one fourth. The share of single persons increased for all the age groups, more obviously for the ones aged under 30 years for men and up to 25 years for women.

Previously to 1989 there were two distinct features characterising the nuptiality phenomenon in Romania: the relatively low age at first marriage and the high percentage of people getting married at least once during a life time - that is over 90%. For most of young people, marriage represented a first step into an independent life, accounting for an emancipation not only from the family life standpoint, but also conferring to the young person a certain position within the society and certain related advantages.

The passage to a market economy, the change in living conditions, the increasing demands of high skills and appropriate education, the disappearance of some advantages specific to the period previous to 1989 (priority for job allotment when graduating university, for achieving a duty related accommodation and some durable goods paid by instalments) and the removal of certain restrictions on cohabitation are only some of the reasons leading to frequently postponing marriage, consensual unions being preferred.

In 1997, as compared to 1990, the mean age at first marriage rose by almost one year for both genders and the weight of population who, theoretically, got married at least one time during their life fell to 70%.

Although most of the marriages are still concluded between 20 and 24 years of age, their intensity has fallen.

The diminution of marriage likelihood at young ages of the celibate persons points out that the decrease in the phenomenon intensity was associated to a concentration of marriages at more mature ages, the peak moving from the age group 20 - 24 years to the upper group, 25 - 29 years.

Divorce

During 1990 - 1997, family dissolution experienced no major changes, being recorded values seen as low in the European context.

The abolishment of the restrictive nature of the law on marriages dissolution, occurred at the end of 1993, has only temporarily led to an increase in the number of divorces in 1994, afterwards, since 1995, being recorded a return to the typical values registered during the last 15 - 20 years.

The trend recorded for young generations is to quickly divorce. In 1997, the same as in 1990, the highest divorce rates for women were recorded for the age group 20 - 24 years. As for men, the maximum values moved from 20 - 24 years in 1990 to 25 - 29 years in 1997.

Of total number of divorces recorded in 1997, almost one third occurred after less than 5 years and over one fourth after a period ranging between 5 and 9 years.

Most of the divorces were recorded after 1 - 2 years since marriage for women aged 20 - 24 years, respectively after 3 - 4 years for men aged 25 - 29 years.

One of the main negative aspects of the increase in divorce rates is the raise of the number of incomplete family nuclei - one parent with children - in 90% of cases being mothers with children.

In 1997, over one half of total divorces were represented by couples with underage children, mainly the ones with 1 - 2 children (almost 93%). The share of divorced couples with more than 2 children has fallen. This situation occurred since, generally, the families with many children belong either to certain religious cults forbidding the divorce, or to certain areas (generally in rural area) where the customs and the tradition of preserving family steadiness are still very strong.

Fertility

The fall in the number of Romania's population, recorded during the last period, is highly due to the decrease in the number of live births.

The limitation of the number of children, mainly by means of abortion, led to a decrease in fertility under the level of generations replacement.

In 1997, 236.9 thousand children were born, falling with 77.8 thousands (24.7%) as against 1990.

As a direct consequence of economic and social living conditions, the changes in population demographic behaviour were obvious: the position of couples to reducing their family size (expressed by total fertility rate), the increasing number of divorces (at young ages and during the first years of marriage). All these resulted in a gradual diminution of the number of live births during 1990 - 1997 as a whole.

The specific fertility by age groups, decreasing during the analysed period, was influenced, to the highest extent, by the wish of family couples to limiting the number of children in their family.

Although the age group 20 - 24 years is still the one with the highest contribution in fertility evolution (40.2% of total live births), as compared to 1990, the fertility rates at this age knew the greatest diminution.

The long term fertility fall, speeded up during the last seven years, led to the achievement of a final descendancy, in 1997, of 1.32 children per woman, being far away of 2.1 children per woman, needed for the simple replacement level.

If, under the circumstances of 1990, up to 30 years of age, theoretical, each woman would have born 1.5 children as average, in 1997 this number fell, reaching 1.1 children. The trend of recovery at elderly ages of postponed births did not occur either, the final descendancy of women after 30 years of age also falling (from 0.36 in 1990 to 0.23 children per woman in 1997). Due to the sharp decrease in fertility after 30 years of age, almost 55% of the final descendancy is produced up to 25 years of age and 83% up to 30 years.

In 1997, 79.2% (83.4% in 1990) of the live births were recorded to the women at first marriage, almost one half of the children being born during the first two years of marriage.

The new demographic behaviour of young couples concerning the desired number of children is also reflected by the high weight of first (53.8%) and second rank live births (28.2%).

The number of women who gave birth to more than three children is lower and lower, their share falling during the last seven years from 27.5% to 17.6%. The weight of mothers up to 30 years of age, with more than one child, fell to one third, though within the most unfavoured age groups - 20 - 29 years - the numerous generations born after 1996 are to be found.

Mortality

In 1997 279.3 thousand deaths were recorded, the crude deaths rate, of 12.4%, being one of the highest in the last 40 years.

Male crude deaths rates are still superior to the ones of females, in 1997 being recorded 121 male deaths for 100 female deaths.

The same with previous decade, during recent years too mortality was mainly due to the diseases of circulatory system and the neoplasm, which held over 75% of total deaths.

During 1990 - 1997, the number of deaths caused by diseases of the circulatory system contributed with 79.1% to the increase in mortality, the neoplasm with 13.9%, the diseases of digestive system with 10.9%, the infectious and parasitically diseases with 6.0% and the accidents, poisonings and other consequences of external nature with 0.9%.

After 1992, life expectancy at birth diminished every year, reaching 68.95 years during 1995 - 1997. Likewise, it should be noticed that the level recorded in our country is by 6 - 7 years lower than in most of the European countries.

Although for the first time in the last 25 years life expectancy for women fell during 1994 - 1996, the higher mortality among men led to an enlargement of the gap between genders, not only to its maintenance. For the period 1995 - 1997 life expectancy at birth kept on diminishing for both genders, reaching 73 years for women and 65.19 years for men. Nevertheless, it should be noticed that, though attenuating with the age, the differences between genders as far as life expectancy is concerned, are kept all along the life time.

The average age at death showed an upward trend during this period, with 2.1 years respectively.

Generally, within the urban area, the life expectancy was by 1 - 2 years superior to the one recorded in rural area.

Internal migration

After 1989, within the economic and social structure of Romania important changes occurred in terms of quantity and quality, which have entailed an intense territorial mobility of population, with direct consequences upon changing the number and the socio-demographic structure of the population at territorial level.

If previously to 1990 internal migration was under control, by means of a centralised policy, since that year, the mechanisms of the market economy began to more and more intensely regulate the migratory flows. After 1989, over 2.7 million people changed their residence, of whom over 32% in 1990. During last years, an intensification of migratory flows from urban to rural area was noticed. This is a situation specific to the crisis period, agriculture being seen as a refuge for a part of the labour force restructured from the non-agricultural sectors.

External migration

The negative balance of external migration steadily fell during the last three years, reaching 13.3 thousands in 1997 (by 6.2 thousands less than 1996).

For 1997, the main destination countries were still Germany, the United States of America and Canada. As compared to previous year, the migratory flows towards all the countries of the world decreased, excepting only Australia and Israel. The main immigration country remained the Republic of Moldova.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Demographic Development of Population in the Slovak Republic

For the last five years since establishing of the Slovak Republic (SR) the demographic development is a reflection of changes realising in period of important economic, social and political transformation of the society.

As of 31.12.1997 the SR got 5 387,6 thousand inhabitants according to the preliminary statistical balance, i.e. by 8,7 thousand more than in year 1996.

Existing population age structure is a result of both the recent natality and mortality and the reproductional processes. In years 1993-1997 the changes in population's age distribution continued as due to long-term drop in births the share and number of child population component (0-14 years) is continuously decreasing and number of persons older than 60 years raises.

At a low total population additions these changes expressed themselves since year 1993 till 1997 as child share decrease from 24.1% to 21% that is less by 3,1 point and in growth of senior people over 60 share from 15% to 15,2% i.e. by 0,2% that represents growth by 23,9 thousands persons. In connection with ageing the share of persons in productive age increased from 58,6% to 61,3%.

1993 - 1997 marriage rate in SR used to be extremely low from a long-term point of view. However, in year 1996 the marriage decline halted as 1997 marriage rate slightly increased. Almost 28 thousand new marriages were contracted, by 471 more than in year 1996. Since year 1993 the marriages number decreased by 2,8 thousands and gross marriage rate by 0,6 point.

Males in age group of 20 - 24 years (44,5%) and 25 - 29 years (36,8% of all marriage number) contract marriage most often. For females too, the number of marriages is the highest in age group of 20 - 24 years (44,6% from the total number of marriages contracted).

Divorce

Divorce rate does have rising tendency from long-term point of view. However, the absolute number of divorces and divorce rate went slightly down in year 1997. 9,1 thousand marriages were divorced, that was by 0,3 thousand less than in year 1996 and gross divorce rate decreased to 1,70 per mil. There were 32,7 divorces per 100 marriages, by 1,5 less than in year 1996, however by 6,2 more than in year 1993. From the permitted divorces there were 6,7 thousands (by 332 less than in year 1996) i.e. 73% with underaged children of which 3,6 thousands with one and 2,5 thousands with two children. 561 matrimonies with three and more children were divorced. The average number of children in matrimonies divorced was 1,7.

Natality and Fertility

Natality and fertility development does have decreasing tendency already since year 1976 i.e. is marked with drop of absolute number of children born, natality and fertility. In years 1995 through 1997. however, some slowdown of natality trend decrease happened as gross natality rate decreased in both year-over-year periods by 0,2 point. Year 1997 from long-term development point of view is the one with the lowest natality with 59,1 thousand live-born

children, less by 1,0 thousand than in year 1996 and 14,1 thousand than in year 1993, respectively.

Furthermore, the drop of reproduction rates continues. Gross reproduction rate decreased to 0,696. Net reproduction rate decreased to 0,685 and is under the value of „1” already since year 1989.

Most of children are born within the matrimony (85%). In year 1997 in comparison with 1996 the slight share increase in live-born children in first two ranks and decrease of children born in third and fourth one was observed. Share of live-born children out of matrimony is, however, increasing. While in year 1993 children born out of matrimony represented 10,6%, till year 1997 this share increased to 15,1% from the total of children born which represented 8,9 thousands live children.

The total female fertility decreased from 1,92 in year 1993 to 1,43 in year 1997. Maximum fertility focuses into 21 - 26 year old females, the highest is at 23 and 24 years old ones.

The abortion rate from a long-term observation point of view belonged to the worst evolving demographic indicators. Also due to legislative measures since year 1957 it increased relatively quickly with its culmination in year 1988 when the gross abortion rate reached 11,3 per mil and there were 70,9 abortions per 100 births. In long-term the highest abortion rate has been characteristic of females about 30 years old who usually rejected the third and additional maternity.

Distinct reducing in abortion rate continuing since year 1988 when number of abortions accomplished 59,4 thousand continued in year 1997 as well. 27,8 thousand pregnancies were terminated which was by 31 thousand (10%) less as than in year 1996 and by 17,6 thousand (by 39%) less than in year 1993. Gross abortion rate decreased to 5,2 per mil.

On the total abortion number the age groups of 20 - 24 year old females (25,6%) and 25 - 29 ones are participating most. It is positive that the abortion rate is declining in youngest age groups up to 19 years too.

Mini-abortions as one of pregnancy artificial termination form are being surveyed since year 1987. Mini-abortion share in total artificial abortions ranged from 62,2% through 78,3% in years 1993 - 1997. In year 1997 there were 15,8 thousand mini-abortions carried out in Slovakia, by 141 cases more than in year 1996, however the share increased by 8,6 points. In respect of important wane of abortions and simultaneous drop of the born (i.e. both livebirths and stillbirths) the total number of pregnancies terminated declines distinctly. In year 1997 it was the lowest (87,2 thousands) for a whole period of abortion statistical observation, i.e. since year 1958. In contrast to year 1996 the number of pregnancies terminated dropped by 4,1 thousand, i.e. by 4,5% and in contrast to year 1993 as many as 32 thousand, i.e. 26,8%. From 100 pregnancies 68 cases ended with livebirth and 32 with abortion.

Level of gross mortality rate in Slovakia in 1980s stagnated on level of 10 per mil or slightly above this boundary up to year 1992 when favourable reversal happened in its development with oscillation (wobbling) course and value under 10 per mil.

In the SR 52,1 thousand people died in year 1997, by 888 more than in year 1996 and by 2,5 thousand less than in year 1993. Gross mortality rate declined for the above mentioned period by 0,2 point and compared to year 1996 it increased by 0,2 points to 9,7 per mil. In spite of recent development mentioned the Slovak population's mortality level mainly with males in mid-age (35 - 54 years) does not improve and in comparison with year 1996 it remains without changes when per 1000 female deaths in age mentioned above 2,6 through 2,8 times more males die.

From long-term point of view one can positively value the infant and post-neonatal mortality. 514 children up to 1 year died in year 1997 which was by 101 less than in year 1996 and by 525 less than in year

1993.

Infant mortality rate declined by 1,5 point over year 1996 and by 1,9 point over year 1993 to 8,7 per mu in year 1997.

Up to 28 days 321 children died which was by 94 children less than in year 1996. The post-neonatal mortality declined by 1,5 point to 5,4 per mil.

The total mortality drop after year 1990 mainly the infant and post-neonatal one displayed itself in lengthening of life expectancy at birth. In 1997 a hope for survival at birth for males reached 68,9 1 years and for females 76,73 ones. Compared to 1996 the life expectancy at birth increased by 0, 11 point at males and by 0,08 point at females.

After year 1990 the broader space for the foreign migration was opened. Its intensity was influenced also by coming into existence of the SR in 1993 since when the migration between the Slovak and Czech Republics is an international one. In year 1993 the mutual exchange of population between the Slovak and Czech Republic took place due to split of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic reflected in migration volume for year mentioned which reached 16,5 thousand persons. Since year 1994 it had declining tendency. In year 1997 the SR acquired 1,7 thousand persons via foreign migration as 2,3 thousand persons moved into Slovakia and 0,6 thousand emigrated. Over 1996 year that was by 0,5 thousand persons less.

Natural increase as a result of population reproduction does have a long-term declining trend. Slovakia got 7 thousand inhabitants by natural movement of population in year 1997, that was by 1,9 thousand less than in year 1996 and by 13,6 thousand less than in year 1993. Natural increase rate of 1,3 per mil was by 0,4 point lower than in year 1996 and by 2,6 points lower than in year 1993.

Total increase as a result of natural and migration population movement 8,7 thousands in year 1997 decreased over year 1996 by 2,4 thousands persons, total increase rate lowered by 0,5 point and reached the value of 1,6 per mil. Compared to 1993 year the total increase declined by 60,9% and total increase rate was lower by 2,6 points.

As of end of year 1997 the population of the SR lived in 2875 communities (including 4 military districts). Number of population per community was 1874. Number of SR's inhabitants in year 1997 increased by 8,7 thousands, i.e. by 0,2%. There were 948 males per 1000 females and 109,8 inhabitants on 1 square kilometre.

SLOVENIA

Population size and structure

At the 1 January 1998 there were 1,984,923 inhabitants in Slovenia, which is a 0.1% (2,066 persons) decrease in comparison with January 1997. The greatest influence on the change of population of Slovenia in 1997 had changes in the number of foreigners. At the beginning of 1998 there were 41,729 foreigners (2.1% of total population) in Slovenia. In comparison with 1997 their share decreased by 0.1%. Data on age structure of population confirm that Slovenian population is ageing rapidly. In one year the share of population under 14 decreased from 17.5% to 17% and the share of population over 65 increased from 12.9% to 13.2%. The most important reason is a drastic decrease of fertility while mortality remained almost unchanged and immigration is relatively unimportant because in most cases it is not permanent.

Population change

Natural increase (- 763 persons; -0,4 per 1000 inhabitants) was negative for the second time in the last 40 years (for the first time in 1993). Net migration was 2442 persons (1,2 per 1000 inhabitants), but do not include temporary refugees returning to Bosnia and Herzegovina or departing abroad.

Fertility

In 1997 the number of live-born children reached the lowest level ever. 18,165 children (9,1 per 1,000 inhabitants) were born alive, which is 623 children or 3% less than in 1996. In 1980 the total fertility rate (TFR) was for the last time under 2.0. In 1997 it was only 1.25. The average age of mothers at birth of children is higher every year and postponing giving birth to the first child is evident. Since 1980, when the average age of mothers at birth of all children was 25.4 years, the average age gradually increased to 27.7 years in 1997. The average age of mothers at birth of the first child was 25.6 years in 1997, which is also 2.6 years higher than in 1980. The number of children born outside marriage is still increasing. Since 1976, when marriage and cohabitation were made legally equal and the share of children born outside marriage was 10.5% it increased to 31.6% of all live-born children in 1997.

Nuptiality

The number of marriages in Slovenia continues to decrease. 40 years ago there were 9.3 marriages per 1,000 inhabitants, in 1997 there were only 3.8 marriages per 1,000 inhabitants. 7,500 weddings were performed and 6,329 of them (84.4%) were the first one both for bride and groom. 89.3% of brides and 89.4% of grooms were married for the first time. In 1997 the average age of bride was 27.6 years and the average age of groom was 30.7 years. For first marriages the respective ages were 25.6 years and 28.5 years. Total first marriage rate in 1997 was 0.46 and is the same as the previous year, but was halved in the last 20 years.

In 1997 was the number of divorces almost the same as in 1996. In 1997 we registered 1,996 divorces, i.e. 266 divorces per 1,000 marriages. In 671 divorces there were no children and in 1325 divorces there were 1946 dependant children. In 1997 the total divorce rate was 0.18.

Mortality

There were no major changes in mortality in Slovenia. In the last ten years the number of the deceased increased considerably only in 1993, when the crude death rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 10.0. 18,928 persons died in 1997; 9,649 men and 9,279 women. The crude death rate per 1,000 inhabitants was the same as in the last three years, i.e. 9.4. The main causes of death are still circulatory diseases (381 per 100,000 inhabitants), neoplasms (244 per 100,000 inhabitants), accidents, poisonings and violence (87 per 100,000 inhabitants) and respiratory diseases (81 per 100,000 inhabitants),.

Among the deceased there were 94 children younger than one year. The infant mortality rate was 5.2 per 1000 live-born children, which is among the lowest in Europe.

Life expectancy at birth is still growing. A boy born in 1996/1997 can expect to live 71.01 years and a girl 78.25 years. In the last 20 years life expectancy grew by 4.02 years for men and 3.72 years for women. In 1997 the average age of deceased men was 66.4 years and of women 75.6 years.

International migration

In 1997, 7,889 people immigrated to Slovenia, of that 1,093 or 14% citizens of the Republic of Slovenia and 86% foreigners. In comparison with 1996, the number of immigrants decreased by almost 20% - especially the number of the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia (by 30%). While in 1997 the number of Slovenian citizens who emigrated from Slovenia remained almost unchanged (807 persons), twice as many foreigners emigrated from Slovenia as the year before (4,640 persons). Net migration per 1000 inhabitants was 1.2. The most of immigrants came from the countries of the former Yugoslavia. Two thirds of immigrant foreigners are men and 60% of them are 20-39 years old. Most of them are economic migrants with their family members.

72 people applied for asylum in Slovenia in 1997 and no one was granted a Conventional status. Beside that the number of persons under temporary protection (temporary refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina) decreased by 45% in 1997. Their number at 1 January 1998 was 4,596.

Legislation and publication

In 1997 in Slovenia there were not any governmental decision concerning population policy. But the Parliament adopted two laws: the first one concerning foreigners which instead of a three-year period of temporary residence in Slovenia now requires eight years of uninterrupted temporary residence in Slovenia for acquire a permanent residence. The second one, The Law on Temporary Protection, defines the conditions for obtaining temporary protection in Slovenia.

We annually publish demographic data in our fundamental publication Statistical Yearbook. In 1997 we quarterly published the data on the number and the structure of population, we also published data on vital and migration statistics in 1997 and the most important was the issue of the Results of Surveys, Population of Slovenia 1996. With this bilingual publication in almost 500 pages we offer to our users methodological explanations, long time series of demographic data and detailed demographic data for 1996.

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